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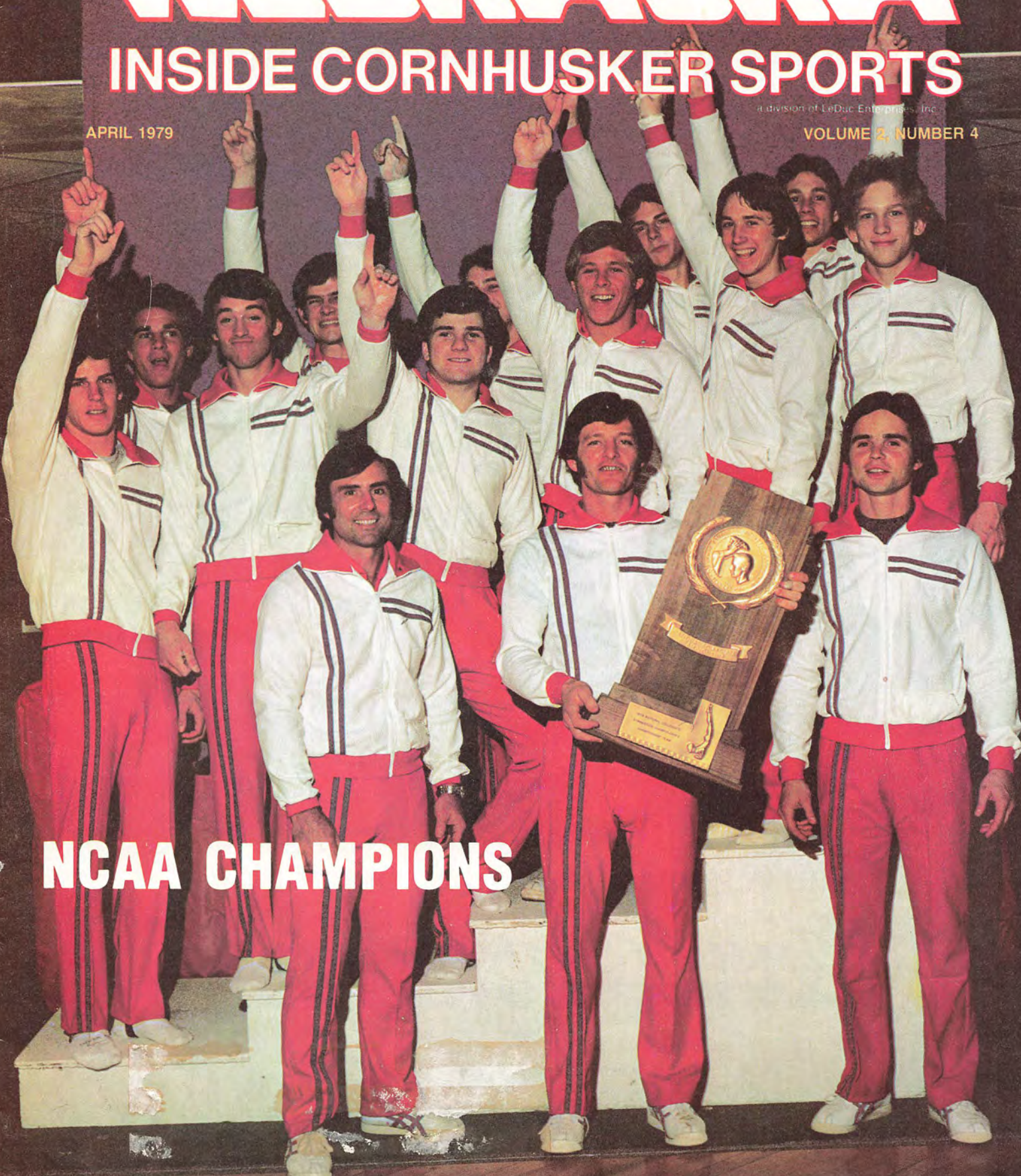
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APRIL 1979

VOLUME 2, NUMBER 4

NCAA CHAMPIONS



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PUBLISHER'S NOTE

Dear Friends:

The many noises and sounds originating from Memorial Stadium transmit but a single message. Spring football is in progress.

While the opening kickoff for the 1979 season is a shade over four months away, both coaches and players have begun—and at some campuses have ended—preparations for the fall campaign. This is the time when positions are won or lost, experiments are conducted, and new philosophies are installed. All of these activities must be completed within the NCAA time frame of 20 practice sessions.

While football is whetting the appetites of grid fans for the fall, all spring sports are beginning to flourish and **NEBRASKA Magazine** will continue to bring to you the best and most interesting stories of all seasons for your entertainment. We hope that you enjoy all of the reading as much as we enjoy bringing it to you.

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NEBRASKA

INSIDE CORNHUSKER SPORTS

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Baseball Dedication

by Don Bryant

Buck Beltzer Field! That phrase got a lot of use in March and April as the University of Nebraska baseball team roared off to a rousing start. And the usage tempo is likely to pick up a great deal in the days, months and years ahead as coach John Sanders pumps exciting life into the diamond Cornhuskers.

Heading into Big 8 play, the 1979 Huskers were riding the crest of a 17-4 record—boasting a 6-3 win over perennial national power Southern California, by the way—and Beltzer Field was gaining in stature right along with the Husker team.

Still not completed nor dedicated, Buck Beltzer Field is the latest star in the University of Nebraska's athletic facilities crown that has been assembled during Bob Devaney's athletic directorship. The spanking new Husker baseball park is located on the site of the old diamond near the northwest corner of Ed Weir Track Stadium and it adds to Nebraska's luster as the Big 8 school with the finest accommodations for athletes and fans alike.

Baseball takes on a new dimension at Nebraska with the addition of Beltzer Field, which features seating for 1,000 fans in a steel and concrete stadium, a huge new press box, rest rooms, concessions, dugouts and an AstroTurf infield.

Make no mistake, Beltzer Field is the latest chapter in the colorful baseball history of Lincoln and Nebraska. And it's not the first baseball park in Lincoln to be associated with Buck Beltzer, although it is the first to bear this Nebraska baseball legend's name.

No story of Beltzer Field would be complete without saluting Jim Beltzer of Grand Island, Mrs. Robert Flory of Fremont, the son and daughter of Oren A. (Buck) Beltzer. It was their gift to the University of Nebraska Athletic Department as a memorial tribute to their father that turned dreams of a top-flight baseball park for the Nebraska Cornhuskers into reality.

"We'd had in mind for a long time to do something in dad's memory," Jim Beltzer

recalls. "When John Sanders became coach he talked to me about leading a campaign for fund-raising to help the baseball program. We thought about helping with the AstroTurf, but then we hit upon the stadium idea and felt that would provide the best opportunity to do something really worthwhile to honor dad."

Buck Beltzer and his brother, Jim, who was also to gain baseball fame in Nebraska, were born in a sod house south of Sutton, Nebraska. While athletic records at the turn of the century are sketchy at best, it didn't take either of the Beltzer Brothers long to start making headlines. Jim earned a baseball letter at Nebraska in 1904 and caught the bug that was to be the family mark for years to come. Buck followed in 1907 and 1908, then captained the 1909 Cornhuskers team. A football star, too, Buck lettered three years and also captained the 1909 Husker football team.

"Maybe I shouldn't mention this," today's Jim Beltzer laughs, "but when dad got out of college I think he changed his name and went to the University of Pennsylvania to play football. After a while there, he signed with the Philadelphia A's to play professional baseball. Unfortunately, dad suffered a sunstroke one day during spring training in the south and it ruined his career. He was hospitalized for about six months."

Buck Beltzer returned to Nebraska still filled with a love for baseball despite his near-fatal mishap, and therein lies a new chapter.

When the Roaring 20's erupted, baseball began a boom era that was to sweep the nation—from San Francisco to Lincoln to New York. The Beltzer Brothers—Jim and Buck—and their good friend, Charley Moon, were operators of the old Rialto Theater and were also to gain renown as operators of the fabled Saratoga Pool Hall. Recalling their baseball days, which also included touring the Midlands with the legendary Green's Nebraska Indians (with

Buck as manager and Jim as the advance man, the colorful team would whoop into town aboard wagons), the trio decided to revive Lincoln as a Western League entry.

The Capitol City dropped out of the Western League after the 1917 season, but by 1922 the Beltzers and Moon gambled and built a new baseball park in Lincoln. Located on West P Street beyond the Burlington rail yards, they paid homage to Mr. Baseball of the era, Commissioner Kenesaw Mountain Landis, and named their park Landis Field. They missed on Western League membership in 1923 and Nebraska State League ball was on top that summer. But in 1924, Lincoln returned to the Western League and Landis Field was the city's baseball headquarters until it was demolished, yielding to age and the 1947 construction of Sherman Field near Gooch's Mill. Perhaps due to their colorful experiences in baseball, the Beltzers were ever mindful of the value of promotion and historians whisper that they named their Lincoln park after Judge Landis not so much to honor him as in hopes of luring him to Lincoln for the dedication. But on that score they failed because Landis did not attend the Landis Field baptismal.

No report on the hey-day of the Beltzer Brothers would be complete without noting that Jim—upon assuming the presidency of the Nebraska State League in 1928—developed a share-the-wealth plan that was to be known in professional baseball

(continued on page 8)

(Top right) The old dirt infield often became muddy during the early months of the season. With the installation of AstroTurf in the infield, the base paths are faster and the fielding is better. Along with the infield improvements, the Beltzer family donated the money for a 1,000-seat stadium. →



(continued from page 6)

circles as the "Beltzer Plan." Jim was convinced that there was little chance for the poor to improve their lot because the wealthy teams would continue to dominate. So he introduced a co-op plan in which all revenue from games was submitted to the Nebraska State League office for equal distribution.

However, income from the major leagues for minor league players was so small in those days the "Beltzer Plan" never bore

the hoped-for results.

"My dad and Uncle Jim went through some interesting, difficult and colorful times," remembers today's Jim Beltzer, himself a Cornhusker golfer in 1939 whose son, Jim, was a Nebraska shot put and discus star for Frank Sevine's track teams during the mid-1960's. "I can remember visiting them at the Saratoga Pool Hall on a day when Nebraska was playing Notre Dame in football. They had a big blackboard on the wall and they'd

write bets on it. When someone covered the bet, they'd erase and put up a new bet. And, of course, we went to Landis Field for baseball a lot."

Thus, the baseball part of Lincoln and Nebraska blends into the present and future of the University of Nebraska athletic program. And for the man who once helped build a baseball park for Lincoln, there now stands a beautiful new baseball park on the University of Nebraska campus named in his honor—Buck Beltzer Field. ★

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Sluggers Tame Wild West

by Bill Bennett



First baseman Pete O'Brien narrowly misses the pick off during game action this month against Oklahoma State in Lincoln.

Photo by Ted Kirk

Even though it's only about an hour's drive from Lincoln to Omaha, site of the annual College World Series, a Nebraska baseball team has never made the trip to the yearly classic. However, things appear to be on the upswing for the Huskers.

Second-year Husker head coach John Sanders certainly isn't predicting that 1979

will be the season for the Cornhuskers' first appearance in the series, but he will proudly point out that Nebraska's baseball program is heading in the right direction. Someday soon the trip to Omaha may become a reality.

The Nebraska nine were 21-4 overall and 4-0 in the Big 8 as of April 10. The team was riding a six-game winning streak

since coming home from a successful two-week trip in sunny Southern California and Hawaii.

The Cornhuskers opened the conference season at Colorado on April 7 and swept the Buffs, 7-5 and 4-1. They traveled to Manhattan on April 9 and defeated Kansas State in a doubleheader, 3-1 and 4-0.

(continued)

The K-State sweep pointed out the keys to the Huskers' success this season. In the first game, senior righthander Tim Pettit checked the Wildcats on seven hits and one run, while fanning seven. In the night-cap, junior righthander Ray Tromba limited the 'Cats to only two hits and struck out five. Providing the power against Kansas State was Nebraska junior centerfielder Joe Scherger. In the first inning of the second game he hit a solo blast, his second four-bagger of the season. Combining strong pitching and timely hitting, the team continues to put games in the win column.

Prior to opening the Big 8 season, Nebraska jumped out to a phenomenal 13-0 start. The Huskers beat Missouri Western six times in Lincoln, and also downed Buena Vista and South Dakota twice before packing their bags and heading for the West Coast and Hawaii.

In California, Nebraska was scheduled to play such collegiate powers as Pepperdine, Cal-Dominquez Hills, Long Beach State, La Verne, Cal-Fullerton and Chapman College. However, typically sunny southern California did not live up to its name and spring torrents cancelled all but three games. The three that were played, however, showed the Huskers' power as they beat Pepperdine, Utah and the defending NCAA champions, Southern California.

Nebraska's win over USC ranks as one of the biggest victories in the team's history. The Huskers were paced by the pitching of righthanders Tim Burke and Tim Pettit. The hitting spark was provided by right-fielder Steve Oakley and catcher Val Primante.

Burke was effective in the first two innings as he shut out the Trojans and allowed just one hit. Pettit got the win, however, as he hurled the last five innings, giving up one run on four hits. Oakley was three-for-four, with two doubles and three RBI's, while Primante stroked a two-run seventh-inning home run.

From California, Nebraska traveled to Honolulu to participate in the fifth annual Hawaii Easter Rainbow Tournament. After four games, NU was 3-1, beating Cal Poly-Pomona, Hawaii-Hilo and Tokai-Japan. The Husker's only loss was to number-one ranked Hawaii, 2-1.

The Hawaii game was a college baseball classic. Hawaii pitched ace junior lefthander Derek Tatsuno—the country's strikeout leader in 1978, while the NU nine countered with Tromba. Before 3,491 fans, Tatsuno outdueled Tromba, giving up only four hits and an unearned run, while recording an incredible 17 strikeouts. Tromba limited Hawaii to two runs on just six hits. He was relieved in the seventh inning by righthander Gary Nolting, who



Senior Co-captain Val Primante charges to first just behind the throw in game action this season. Batting strong throughout the West Coast trip, Primante had a two-run homer against powerhouse USC.

Photo by Ted Kirk

shut out the Rainbows through the last one and two-thirds innings.

After its 3-1 winning start in the tournament, the Huskers dropped their next four, as Hawaii won the championship with an 8-0 record. At the end of the tournament on March 30, the Huskers had been on the road for 15 days and travel weariness had a definite effect on the NU effort.

Despite the tournament-ending losses, Sanders was pleased with the trip. "We were playing very good, consistent ball through most of our travel," he said. "Our wins over Pepperdine and USC and our narrow loss to Hawaii proves that. I hope our players also found out what you must do to win even when you're tired. That

experience should help us when we get into the thick of the Big 8 race."

Once rested and back in Lincoln, Nebraska immediately snapped the slump and won six straight, two from Creighton and the four conference contests.

Through the first quarter of the season, the Huskers have been paced by Scherger, Oakley, sophomore third baseman Jeff Hunter and Primante. Scherger, a two-time second team All-Big 8 performer, is leading the team with a .362 average, 26 runs and 13 RBI's. Behind Scherger is Oakley, .340, Hunter, .314 with 21 RBI's and Primante, .313 with 24 RBI's.

The top pitchers are junior righthander Jim McManus, junior lefthander Cliff Faust, Burke, Nolting and Tromba. McManus,

drafted by the Chicago Cubs last summer, transferred to NU last fall from Triton Junior College. He is 3-0, with a 1.52 earned run average and 16 strikeouts. He is followed by Faust, 1-0, with 1.64 ERA, Burke, 4-1 with a 2.08 ERA and 40 strikeouts, Nolting—a 1978 honorable mention All-Big 8 performer—is 3-0, with a 2.94 ERA and Tromba, 3-2, with a 2.78 ERA.

Nebraska has been getting the pitching and hitting needed to have a successful season. But according to Sanders, the Huskers also have a third factor, which creates a total, successful program facility.

"In just two years, through donations, we've added an AstroTurf infield and dugouts, plus a permanent stadium and press box," he said. "And future plans call for lockerrooms and showers located under the dugouts. Recruiting is the name of the game and I'd like to think that we can compete with some of the true college powers for the good players. In fact, I think we are already starting to reap the benefits."

And "reaping the benefits" is what Sanders hopes will someday thrust Nebraska baseball into the national limelight and enable the Huskers to travel that short distance to Omaha. ★



The first base umpire explains a controversial call to head coach John Sanders during the Oklahoma State game.

Photo by Ted Kirk

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3.



STOP

Photos by Ted Kirk and Mark Billingsley

4.

5.





ACTION

6.

Springtime is a time of times at Nebraska. Pro scouts and coaches line up with stopwatches in hand and time the gridders as they attempt to cut precious tenths of seconds off their 40-dash times (photo 1).

The pro scouts (photos 2 and 4) are merely gathering the statistics necessary to make a proper evaluation of a player before the annual draft. Not only do they measure speed, but they also check height, weight, quickness and any other quality that may have some bearing on a player's performance as a pro.

Tom Osborne (photo 3) gazes down the runway and intently watches his players. With speed being such an important element in a successful college program, Osborne must carefully measure the outcome of each runner's sprint and put the results into an overall scheme for team strategy in the fall.

I.M. Hipp (photo 5) has used weights to develop not only great body strength, but also lightning speed in the forty.

After all the running and weighing and measuring have been completed, the players don their pads and head out to the stadium. It is here that the true test of a player's ability is finally determined for pro scouts and coaches alike (photo 6).





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FOOTBALL 1979 —

THE RITE OF SPRING



Craig Johnson goes over the top in scrimmage action this spring. Even though spring football is not the final determinant in deciding who starts in the fall, it is a time for coaches to evaluate winter conditioning, new faces and relative strength of positions weakened through graduation.

Photo by Mark Billingsley

by Mike Babcock

Nebraska guard Randy Schleusener admits he's thought about quitting football.

"There isn't anyone who hasn't thought about it," Schleusener said. "You always think about it after a hard week of practice or a tough scrimmage. You think, 'Gee, is it worth the trouble?' But when you have a good scrimmage, you think 'I can hang in there.' And if you want it bad enough,

you'll hang around until you get it."

In the past, that's been more difficult in the spring than in the fall. When the ground begins to thaw and the first tufts of artificial turf pop through the snow, the rite of spring — college football style — begins. At Nebraska, that means 20 days of intense contact leading up to the annual intrasquad game.

It happens every spring: For five weeks,

the Cornhuskers play king of the mountain by position in hopes of landing and holding the No. 1 spot. But their rewards are deferred until several weeks into the fall, when the games finally begin. It takes a special kind of perseverance to endure the pounding of spring drills, knowing the first game isn't until Sept. 15. That's why quitting might be easier in the spring.

(continued)

The players must forego immediate comfort for future considerations. They invest that month of spring in hopes it will pay dividends in the fall. The investment is blood and sweat; the dividends are Saturdays in autumn, being dressed in red jerseys and white helmets, playing football before sellout crowds in Memorial Stadium.

Now the stadium is mostly empty, and it's easy to get discouraged. Spring practice is no different than any other kind of practice. It's just plain no fun.

"That attitude is always in your mind," Schleusener said. "There's a lot of pain

are wound and rewind.

"That makes it more competitive in the spring because the coaches can't change things around as much in the fall. During spring practice they keep moving you around; they're more prone to make changes," Gary England said.

No one can avoid those watchful eyes, not even the battle-tested veterans. "You're afraid to screw up," said England. "Every mistake you make, they notice."

Almost every player comes to Nebraska with outstanding high school credentials. But the shock of suddenly becoming just

There's a lot of talent here."

Neither Schleusener nor England are tested veterans. Both will be juniors in the fall, and both began spring drills as the No. 1 man at his position — Schleusener at right guard and England at offensive right tackle. England played just eight minutes of varsity football last season, while Schleusener earned his first letter by being aggressive on specialty teams and playing guard in fourth quarters of lopsided victories like those at Indiana and Kansas.

"I had an advantage on the road because I was the fifth guard, the last guard



Coach Tom Osborne calls the plays in a spring football scrimmage. "Coaches have to take an accounting in the spring so that in the fall they know who should be playing," says redshirt freshman Dave Rimington, who is vying for the top center position.

Photo by Humberto Rameriz

involved in it, a lot of monotony, and a lot of getting hit and having headaches all night. But you don't let that attitude become prevalent or you might lose sight of where you're at."

"Where you're at" can change almost daily. Depth charts are posted on Mondays and Wednesdays, and players move up and down on an escalator powered by the constant scrutiny of coaches and the hum of projectors through which practice films

another football player in a sea of talent is difficult for some to handle. It takes a special character to endure the initial shock. That character is then tempered and polished during spring drills.

"There are so many qualified athletes at Nebraska that if you don't perform every time you go onto the field, you'll be left behind," Schleusener said. "The competition is so great that I think our red shirt team could beat some colleges.

to travel," Schleusener said. "From a selfish point of view, that was good because I got to play quite a bit.

"You can play here if you've got the patience to stay around awhile. Guys like Andra Franklin (who lettered as a freshman) are the exception. But the more time you spend, the more you realize how things are run. Unless you're a total idiot, you can learn the system through repetition,"

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GENUINE

(continued from page 16)

he said.

Running plays over and over is part of the spring schedule. I-backs hit the same hole time after time while linemen try to block defenders who know the plays almost as well as the blockers do. It's wearisome — but necessary.

The team is run by a simple rule: competition creates success. Take the best of the best. Toss several excellent athletes together and see which ones emerge on top. Practices become greater tests of ability than most games. "The players you'll

play against in games during the fall aren't as good as those you face in practice," Schleusener said. "There are only two or three games a year when you'll face guys better than you. So if you can play against people in spring ball, you can play against anybody."

In that context, the strong will survive . . . and the way to be strong is to hit and get hit. "The best way to catch a coach's eye is to have some outstanding hits and be consistent about it," he said. "During spring, you still worry about injuries, but since there are no impending games, you don't

worry as much about people, especially those who would be starters, getting hurt. They'll be ready by fall."

England agrees with that analysis. Even the extensive winter conditioning program can't prevent the aches and pains of those first few days of spring contact. Running and lifting weights are limited insurance against the bumps and bruises shoulder pads of an on-rushing opponent can produce.

"I think you hit more during the spring because the coaches aren't as concerned about little bumps and bruises . . . there's a

Senior tight end Junior Miller powers his way down the field despite the efforts of a Husker defensive player. Perhaps the finest athlete in college football today, the 6-4 Midland, Texas native invests time in spring practice which pays valuable dividends in the fall.

Photo by Humberto Rameriz



lot more time to heal," he said. "Spring practice makes you more ready for fall camp. And you figure if you can endure spring, the fall will be more enjoyable."

Spring drills were more enjoyable for the 6-3, 234-pounder from Salt Lake City, Utah, this season. England came to Nebraska as a defensive tackle, but after playing there as a freshman and then red-shirting one season, he was shifted to offense. He says he likes offense better simply because he's getting a chance to play. That's what the endless hard work is all about.

"I wanted to make the move because I knew I'd have more of a chance to play," England said. With three-year lettermen Kelvin Clark, an All-America selection, and Tom Ohrt, plus two-year letterman Steve Glenn gone from the tackle picture, his reward seems less distant than it did a year ago. "Last spring was my first one on offense, and I knew I wasn't going to be making it right away, not with Kelvin (Clark) and Tom Ohrt coming back. But something gets in you when you know you have a chance to play."

Schleusener knows that feeling, too. He came to Nebraska from Rapid City, S.D., with great expectations after a sterling career at Stevens High School. Like England, he played as a freshman and then red-shirted the next season, during which he almost became a center. "But I guess I wasn't quick enough," the 6-6, 235-pound guard said.

"It's tough coming out of high school the big stud player and then having to start all over," Schleusener said, admitting he

(continued)

"... The way to be strong is to hit and get hit," says offensive guard Randy Schleusener. Defensive tackle Bill Barnett (No. 97 in white) works on his strength at the expense of sophomore quarterback Steve Michaelson.

Photo by Mark Billingsley



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was less than enthusiastic about his first season of spring drills as a freshman. Greg Jorgensen and Dan Schmidt held down the Cornhusker guard slots then.

But, of course, that has changed and so has Schleusener's attitude about the drudgery of spring practice. With Barney Cotton, Steve Lindquist and Lawrence Cooley all graduated, the guard positions will take on a new look this fall; John Havekost is the only experienced letterman there.

"A lot has to do with the position. As a freshman, I couldn't realistically see myself starting, and I guess I didn't have the perseverance. It was harder for me to get excited about such a long-term goal. But this year I can see myself higher up," Schleusener said.

"Waiting until September doesn't bother me. It's a little bit far off, but it's not that distant, and no one's safe. For guys like me, the real competition is now. If you're not an established player, it's very intense in the spring, and besides, it seems like the guys who are established are also the ones who don't let up.

"There's enough competition that no one can rest or let up at any position," he said.

Havekost and center Kelly Saalfeld represent the only real experience in the interior of Nebraska's offensive line, making it one of the rebuilding priorities for next fall. The new offensive interior has a tough act to follow after last season's group opened holes for the nation's most potent offense.

Sophomores-to-be Mike Bruce, Peter Boll and Dan Hurley are among those battling England for the right tackle spot, while Schleusener entered spring camp ahead of Joe Adams, Greg Lynch and Kurt Glather at right guard.

On the left side, Havekost will provide two seasons of reliable letterman experience at guard, while John Keuten, Paul Potadle and Matt Brandl head the list of hopefuls there. Among the more prominent candidates for the No. 1 left tackle job when fall practice begins are Dan Steiner, Mark Goodspeed, Tom Carlstrom and Dan Rice.

Saalfeld is ably supported at center by letterman Jeff Bloom — Schleusener's high school teammate — and freshman Dave Rimington, who picked up a red-shirt season after undergoing knee surgery last fall.

Rimington provides a contrast to Schleusener and England since this is his first time through spring drills. He's used to competing in track during the spring.

"I don't really like playing football in the spring; it feels different," he said. "But I'll get used to it . . . at least I'd better."

Rimington's potential is such that there was talk of shifting Saalfeld from center to tackle in order that both athletes could

play in the same offensive line. That's how good the Omaha South product is expected to be. But if he doesn't produce in spring practice, those expectations might not be realized. Rimington must pass his spring tests just as the other Huskers must.

"There's more time to hit in the spring. You really don't hit that much in the fall, not the starters at least," Rimington said. "I was on the scout squad and we did, but the coaches can't afford to get the star players hurt.

"The spring is more physical for everyone, and it's more emotional. Coaches have to take an accounting in the spring so that in the fall they **know** who should be playing," he said.

Everyone thinks he should be playing, and springtime is the right time for proving it. What so many new faces in the offensive line can accomplish now will go a long way in determining what Nebraskans can expect in the fall. And from the looks of things, Havekost and Saalfeld may get the help they need from those eager linemen whose names aren't immediately recognizable.

"I think we're a little farther along than the coaches thought we'd be," England said. "They seem to have a little more confidence in us than they did. Physically and mentally we have it, but our play has got to get to the point where it's natural. I really haven't had the opportunity to play on offense much, and I still have to think about what I do."

That's what spring football practice is all about, getting the chance to play and learn and prove yourself.

"My class of scholarship kids is down to about half of the 30 who originally came here," Schleusener said. "Most of those guys just left; they weren't run off. They just realized what it takes to hang around."

The big guard from Rapid City realized what it takes to hang around at Nebraska, and like he said, he's thought about quitting more than once. But Schleusener hasn't quit, and he knows he won't. Some days are worth all the headaches and pain.

September 15 will be such a day. That's when the Cornhuskers open their 1979 football season against Utah State. Memorial Stadium will be filled with a sea of red that autumn afternoon . . . and Randy Schleusener and Gary England will be glad they stuck around. ★

Nebraska defenders close in on Jarvis Redwine (12) from all sides: defensive end Gordon Thiessen (No. 90) and in right background linebacker Kim Baker (No. 41). Five defensive starters were lost to graduation from the 1979 team, creating intense competition during the spring for the vacant positions.

Photo by Humberto Rameriz







THE FIRST NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP — *A Toast to the Champs*

by Ken Hambleton

A large bottle of wine sat on a shelf gathering dust for nine years in the home of Francis Allen, Nebraska gymnastics coach. Other bottles of wine had been opened and enjoyed in victory over the years, but this bottle was very special.

Its content and quality aren't important. But the popping of the cork was. When Allen uncorked the dusty green bottle, a dream first conceived nine years ago had been realized: Nebraska had won its first national championship ever. The Cornhuskers came from behind to defeat two-

time defending champion Oklahoma by more than one and one-half points on the first weekend in April to leave no doubts in the minds of observers around the country that the Cornhuskers are the NCAA national gymnastics champions for 1979.

Jim Hartung finished third in the all-around and Larry Gerard recovered from a fall on the pommel horse to take fourth to lead Nebraska's assault on the NCAA, scoring record with a final total of 448.275. No less than eight other Cornhuskers earned scores of 9.0 or better to provide

(continued)

"Jim Hartung," said NCAA all-around champion Kurt Thomas of Indiana, "is the only gymnast in the country pushing me right now." The Husker freshman standout recorded a 9.55 on the parallel bars, left. Below, senior Larry Gerard scored a 9.4 on the high bar and a 9.6 on the rings to join Hartung in leading NU to the national title. Photos by Ted Kirk





Nebraska's Larry Gerard, above receiving congratulations from his teammates, closed out his brilliant Cornhusker career by finishing fourth in the all-around, rings and high bar.

Photo by Ted Kirk

the essential depth needed in a national championship team: Steve Elliott, Chuck Chmelka, Kevin Dunkley, Kirk Fridrich, Richard Brindist, Terry Nowels, Steve Todd and Mark Williams. Now that's deserving of a nine-year-old toast!

There was a bottle of wine opened in 1976 when Nebraska won its first Big Eight gymnastics title since Allen competed and the Huskers captured the crown in 1963.

There were bottles opened in 1975, when the Huskers placed fifth in the national tournament. And there was the sound of corks popping earlier in this national championship season when NU captured the regional title and topped Oklahoma for the second time in three meets.

But this year's vintage may be the best of all, because there are signs that it will last and last.

"We always celebrate the big wins with a bottle of wine between all the coaches," Allen said. "People give me the bottles with the message to open the bottle when we win a big meet or something.

"We may have to start taking the bottles

with us in the future, because I have a lot of confidence in this team and our teams of the future," he said.

But like all vintage wines, there were some years when the crop didn't produce and the wine wasn't matured.

"There really wasn't much going on in gymnastics at Nebraska for awhile after 1965 or so. I was teaching girls' acrobatic dancing, and started some summer gymnastics classes in the dark old Men's P.E. Building, just to earn some money and build a little interest in gymnastics.

"I became head coach at Nebraska in 1968, but it wasn't a full time position, and there weren't a lot of gymnasts to work with then," he said.

Four years later, though, the Huskers returned to the gymnastics headlines with all-arounder Hoppy Batten. Batten won the Big Eight title in the high bar and the vault and helped the Huskers to a second place finish in the conference. It was the first time since Allen was a senior at Nebraska that the Huskers had finished above fourth place in the Big Eight.

"Then we started getting some of the top

athletes in Nebraska and started getting a little more money to recruit and keep the in-state kids in Nebraska," said Allen.

Top gymnastic performers like Pete Studenski, who personally changed the accepted swings on the rings and captured fifth in the rings in the NCAA meet in 1975, put Nebraska on the gymnastics map.

Pommel horse specialist Steve Dickey and floor exercise standout Jim Unger were also national caliber performers in Husker gymnastics in the early to mid 1970's.

All-arounder Gene Mackie placed fourth in the country and became the first NU gymnast in a decade to represent the Huskers in international competition.

And while Nebraska enjoyed successes on a collegiate level, Allen's School of Gymnastics for young girls and the Nebraska Gymnastics Booster Club were also growing.

The school of gymnastics and the gymnastics clubs gave young Nebraskans a chance to perform nationally, and to be exposed to some of the top competition in the country.



The champions were deserving of a toast after coming from more than a point behind Oklahoma to record several season-best performances and defeat the Sooners, 448.275 to 446.625. The Huskers will go for two in a row next year, when the national championships will be held in NU's Bob Devaney Sports Center. Photo by Ted Kirk

Private clubs across the state benefitted from the growth of gymnastics in Lincoln. The Nebraska School of Gymnastics grew into the Nebraska Center for Gymnastics, which provided workshops, clinics and demonstrations for schools, the state legislature and the public in general. The production of written materials for coaches, teachers and judges and the development of an "instructor loan" was made available to the entire state of Nebraska.

"It's all connected. The growth of the collegiate program at Nebraska and the programs for the kids all help build a gymnastics tradition in the state," said Allen. "There just wasn't anything here before."

With Nebraska's growth in gymnastics came the opportunity to host the Junior Olympics and other gymnastics programs. In 1980 the Huskers will host the NCAA gymnastics championships.

"We have the best facility in the country and one of the best in the world," said Allen. "And the major reason is athletic director Bob Devaney. He was the one who saw we could grow in the right environment."

"Our facilities at the Sports Center are fantastic." The Huskers not only have

the best equipment, but they also enjoy extras like "the pit." The pit is an \$18,000 foam-filled hole in the floor that enables the gymnasts to perform tougher routines without the risk of injury.

"When you have facilities like this, plus a tradition of success and the followers, recruiting becomes a lot easier," said Allen.

NU All-America all-arounders Larry Gerard and Jim Hartung said there was no better school and really no choice when they graduated from high school.

"I always wanted to come here. The coaches, kids and facilities are unparalleled," said Gerard. "The new facilities here are great," added Hartung.

"This is the snowball effect I was talking about," said Allen. "With gymnasts like Gerard and Hartung talking about our facilities and programs, the better high school gymnasts want to come here."

"There was a time when we couldn't even compete with a full team. But now I get letters and phone calls from gymnasts all over the country. We should be able to compete with the best for a long, long time," Allen said.

A lot of schools have the money and

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can't win the national title. And a lot of schools have the facilities but don't win the NCAA championships.

"But the difference here is we've won and we're still growing," he said. When the Nebraska School of Gymnastics started there were five boys: Larry Gerard, Duane West, Scott Roth, Gary Jeurink and Jeff Johnson. Gerard just finished competing for the Huskers, while the other four are now coaching gymnastics.

"Now, there are 85 boys in the school and more than 200 girls," Allen said. "And one would guess they might lean towards coming to Nebraska when they graduate from high school."

Jim Hartung was affiliated with the Nebraska program since he was seven-years-old. High school standout Phil Cahoy, also of Omaha, worked with the Nebraska program for many years and is leaning towards accepting a scholarship at Nebraska.

"With a kid like Cahoy, we'll be right back on top again next year," said Allen. "He'd make this team as good if not better than this year's."

And, as Allen points out, "he's the kind of performer like Gerard and Hartung, that will help build the U.S. into a more respected gymnastics country." ★



A Mom By Any Other Name

by Ryly Jane Hambleton

Twenty-five people call Connie Gonyea "Mom".

The sophomore pitcher for the Nebraska women's softball team has been married for 13 years. She and her husband, Wayne, have four children: Angela, 12, Wayne, Jr. (Whitey), 11, Tammy, 7 and Joe, 5.

Gonyea's other 21 "children" are her teammates on the NU softball team, who tagged her with the name "Mom" last season when they discovered one of their pitchers was not a typical college sophomore. The nickname stuck.

"Sometimes the opposing teams look a little surprised when they start calling me Mom," said Gonyea. A glance at the team picture would confirm their surprise. It's difficult to pick out the 34-year-old from appearances.

And both head coach Don Isherwood and assistant coach George Strait agree that appearances aren't the only factor that would make it hard to find "Mom".

"The unique thing about Connie's situation is that she's not unique or different on the team," Strait said. "She's just one of the girls on the team. They all treat each other the same and Connie just blends in."

"Connie didn't ask for any special considerations when she started," said Isherwood. "She wanted to be treated like any of the other team members."

"Of course there are some differences because of her experience in pitching," he continued. "She doesn't need any

coaching as far as pitching is concerned, and you don't have to remind her of the basics. She knows what to do in certain situations, like knowing where to back up or where to go with the ball.

"But she doesn't try to push what she knows on the team. She doesn't give advice or talk about philosophies of the game unless she's asked," he said. "I know she has worked with some of the pitchers on

different pitches, especially early in the season in the fieldhouse, but pitchers always work with each other."

Working with younger girls is nothing new for Gonyea. Her husband Wayne, who works for Burlington Northern, says Connie has always taken younger girls under her wing.

"There have always been people she (continued)



(Left) On and off the field Connie Gonyea exhibits the kind of enthusiasm that makes her teammates give that extra effort to win. (Right) Connie extends hearty congratulations to Alison Bodley after pitching well for the Huskers.

Photos by Mark Billingsley and Mike Hlevyack

worked with around the house," he said. "She relates well to teenage girls and enjoys helping them. Also, she just likes their company."

Connie says there were two reasons she started to school when she did.

"I had done some coaching and I knew that I wasn't doing the best possible job. I realized that the information and experience I needed was at school," she explained. "And the second reason was that I realized my son Joe would be in school soon and I really did want to coach. I thought this would be the time to make the move."

"I've always been intrigued by the NU team. I also felt that I could compete at the college level and have something to offer," she said. "I've been pitching for about seven or eight years seriously."

But going back to school meant much more than just making the team. There were changes at home and many things to learn about going to school.

"I had to learn how to study again," she lamented. "And I'm still not as good as I should be. I also had to learn how to take tests. Essay tests are better for me because I can organize my thoughts, but if it's multiple choice, it really is just multiple guess for me."

Trying to find time to study with four children around can sometimes be difficult. Gonyea claims that finding time to sleep is the most challenging part of going back to school.

"She likes to study in the kitchen and, needless to say, it's too busy or noisy early in the evening," Wayne said. "So lots of time, she doesn't start studying until nine when the kids go to bed."

"When I first started, it might have helped the kids with their studies because they wanted to be by me," Connie said. "Now I can't have them around because they start to giggle and it gets tough to study."

The workload around the house hasn't changed, but some of the responsibilities have been redistributed.

"Angela has really taken over," said Connie. "She does the wash and sometimes does the cooking. I think she probably cooks as well if not better than Wayne. She is far above capabilities of most 12-year-olds. And Tammy is kind of a second mother."

"I make up a chart for the kids' chores for after school, and Tammy is always the first to get started with hers. Both Whitey and Angela have paper routes so that gives Angela double duty."

Wayne and Connie both agree that it's hard on the children having mom away for long periods of time, but Connie said some good things have happened as a result.



Catcher Laura Lowe smiles through her mask in game action this season. (Below) Head coach Don Isherwood watches the progress of his team from the sidelines.

Photo by Mike Hlevyack





When team spirits are low, coach Isherwood is the first one to start the chatter to get the rally going.

Photo by Mike Hlevyack

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"When we went south for two weeks this spring, I really felt like I fit in well with the girls," she explained. "I missed my family a great deal, but when I came home, I think I appreciated them even more than before."

"In some ways, the hardest part on me is that I feel like I have a split personality, she continued. "When I come home, I have to forget about being a student to become a housewife."

When at all possible, Connie saves her weekends for the kids. She spends her time with them at a movie or shopping or just playing, especially when Wayne is spending weekend time working for the *Lincoln Journal & Star* sports department.

"When I'm at home, I try to take Joe with me as much as possible. He even goes to some classes with me and many times, he's the best behaved person in the whole classroom," Gonyea joked. "He is kind of the team mascot. No, I think he's probably more like the team playmate."

Wayne said the added responsibilities for the children wasn't the biggest effect of Connie's absences.

"The kids now know they don't have her to tend to their every need," he said.

"When Connie went south, Angela really took charge. She acted like she was the boss, no question about it."

"The kids are really proud of their mom," he continued. "When the team's out of town, they always want to call the paper to see how Nebraska did, rather than wait until the next morning."

"It's a lot of work now, with everybody pitching in," he said. "We all pull more of a load to make up for what she used to do, but the kids really get a thrill about seeing her name in the paper. And her dad is really proud of her. He follows what she and the team do very carefully."

Connie posted a 7-5 record in her freshman year as the team set a school record with 25 wins against 14 losses. She sported a 2.82 earned run average last year.

"Connie won some really big games for us," said Strait. "She beat Iowa State and some other top schools."

This year, Gonyea's ERA suffered a bit on the southern trip, when she found her pitches jumping around in the Arizona wind. She is now 3-3 with a 4.72 ERA, but some of her more recent outings this year point to an even better season than last.

Gonyea went the distance against Iowa in the Cornhusker Invitational, allowing no earned runs and she also came in to retire the side after Belinda Keyes, a freshman pitcher, got in trouble against Iowa State.

"I just keep working on my pitching," Connie said. "The infield this year is really good and that makes a big difference to me. When I pitch, I don't overpower the batter. I get her to hit the ball and then I need my fielders to back me up."

"Connie got a late start pitching," said Wayne. "She started as a third-baseman and then finally took up pitching. She really has worked hard at it. She has watched all the AAA pitchers here in town and has gone to lots of clinics to learn even more."

Connie is known for her change-up, which has fooled many a batter into an early swing, but her repertoire of pitches is much greater. She's been perfecting another pitch for this season and keeps working on all the ones she has now.

Teamwork is what makes it go for Connie Gonyea: "Mom" and her family, and "Mom" and her second family, the NU softball team. ★

LEE KUNZ —

ART FOR ART'S SAKE

by Mike Babcock

"For his size, there's not a better athlete in the Big Eight. He's the most flexible athlete, pound-for-pound, I've ever seen."

—Scott Poehling about his roommate, Lee Kunz

Lee Kunz has thrown the discus since he was in the eighth grade, and somehow, that's appropriate. The discus is one of the most classic of field events, dating to the earliest Olympic Games. The Greeks considered the discus thrower the greatest of all athletes, and the sculptor, Myron, immortalized his perfectly-muscled form in the bronze "discobolus."

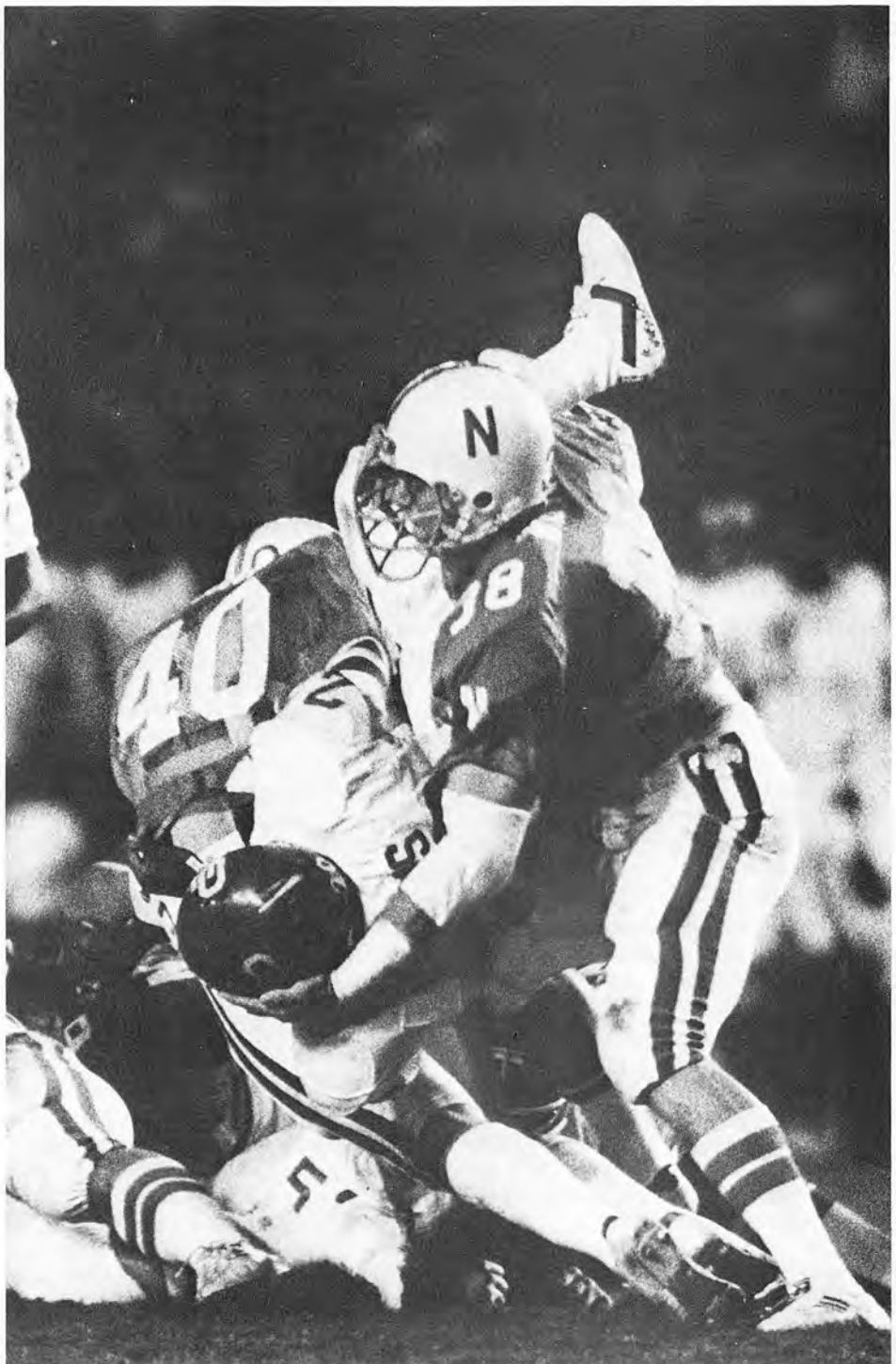
Kunz would make an appropriate 20th Century subject for such a striking statue. His athletic ability is complemented by blonde hair and rugged good looks. You might guess he comes from Mount Olympus, mythological home of the Greek gods, rather than Golden, Colo.

He enjoys seeing how far he can toss the 4-kilo disc. He always has. "It takes a lot of technique. In fact, it's one of the most technical events," Kunz said. "It requires strength, co-ordination and speed

(continued)

(Right) Lee Kunz (No. 38) and linebacker teammate Bruce Dunning upset Sooner Billy Sims in the 1979 Orange Bowl. (Opposite page) Kunz was the Big Eight discus champion last season with a throw of 192 feet, 8 inches. In spite of his size (6-3, 230), Kunz says "I'm the smallest and by far the weakest" of the nation's top 10 college discus throwers. The 1980 Olympics are on his mind, nonetheless.

Photos by Ted Kirk and Mark Billingsley







Kunz (above, center) led Nebraska tacklers against Missouri last season. He established NU season records for most tackles (159) and most assisted tackles (102) as a junior.

Photo by Ted Kirk

across the ring . . . it's almost an art.

"Finding just a small technical area and really working on it, that's rewarding," he said.

The Nebraska senior speaks of his participation in the discus as an artist talks of the creative process or a poet his meter. The joy is in the vision rather than the finished product. Kunz is constantly expanding his goals because the joy is in the quest, the workouts and the sweat.

When he throws the discus, it's art for art's sake. The success, he says, is secondary.

"I'd say I've gotten as much satisfaction preparing for my goals as when I've accomplished them. One of the things I've enjoyed most is working and preparing for the accomplishment of the goal — the weight training, the running. I look forward to working out, and I'll probably continue to work out the rest of my life," Kunz said.

But Lee Kunz is unique among elite collegiate discus throwers because he also is a football player, a very good football player. Someday, he hopes to become a professional in that sport. In an age of specialization, he has been a rare, two-sport letterman at Nebraska. If his skills in either have been diminished because of that, no one has noticed. But he'll point some out.

"If I had specialized in track, I'd be throw-

ing the discus 15-20 feet farther," Kunz said. If he had concentrated on track and field, he might have been a decathlete; he has the versatility of a Bruce Jenner. He co-ordinates speed and quickness with the strength that comes from years of weight training. "My weight lifting has helped me more than anything else," he said.

If Kunz had specialized in football, he would certainly have been an All-Big Eight linebacker and All-America candidate, getting the publicity he deserved from two seasons as the Cornhuskers' leading tackler. But after establishing Nebraska season records for most tackles (159) and most assisted tackles (102) as a junior, Kunz decided to by-pass spring football practice to work on throwing the discus. As a result, he was the Huskers' No. 2 weak-side linebacker at the start of fall practice and had to re-earn his defensive Black Shirt. By Nebraska's opening game with Alabama, he was back at No. 1.

"I wish more people could compete in two sports; I think they would, but it's only natural for coaches to want total concentration in one sport," Kunz said. "You do sacrifice certain areas in each sport

because you're not giving your complete concentration to one, but it's been worth the sacrifice to compete in both. The rewards are well worth the problems.

"I've met a lot more people and seen a lot more of the country than I would have if I had participated in just one sport. I really like all athletics, and I'd compete in more if I could," he said.

As a prep athlete at Wheat Ridge High, a suburban Denver school, Kunz participated in football, wrestling and track. His junior and senior years, he won state titles in both the high jump — his best was 6-9 — and the discus, where he threw it 195 feet.

Kunz was a fullback on a state championship football team as a junior, and the next fall, because of a broken hand, he became a linebacker, the position for which Nebraska recruited him.

Kunz says he hasn't always been what he considers a good athlete, but "I always felt I could work harder than my competitors and beat them." Then, in the eighth grade, he began working with weight training, and "all at once, I seemed to be competing better than my opponents," he said.

He also got inspiration from his cousin, Terry, who was three years older and "an exceptional athlete" at Wheat Ridge High School before spending a couple of seasons with the Oakland Raiders of the National Football League.

In high school, Terry Kunz high jumped 6-8 and was the Colorado state champion in the 120-yard high hurdles. But it was as a football player that he most excelled, and "I looked up to him quite a bit," Lee said. In 1975, when Lee Kunz was a Nebraska freshman, Terry Kunz was an All-Big Eight fullback at Colorado.

After following in his cousin's footsteps with a sparkling high school career, Lee Kunz was courted by other college football powers, like Notre Dame and Texas. But Nebraska was his first and only choice. "I sat down and wrote all the positives and negatives, and Nebraska came up with more on the positive side of the ledger," he said. "So when I had the choice, I decided on Nebraska."

Notre Dame and Texas "just came out and said I wouldn't be able to compete in anything but football," Kunz said. So he became a Cornhusker, and he's never (continued)



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regretted that decision any more than he's regretted competing in two sports. "I've felt a part of each sport here; I've really enjoyed it," he said.

Not only has Kunz been successful in two sports, but he has also established himself as a scholar-athlete, maintaining a B average in finance. As an NU junior, he was an academic All-Big Eight selection, and this past season he had a 3.3 grade-point average. But for some reason, he wasn't a repeat choice.

Being a good student doesn't happen without more sacrifice. Road trips and practice cut into study time, and there is little left for socializing. "You really have to discipline yourself and structure your time," Kunz said. Even so, he must still complete nine more hours to graduate.

But that discipline and structure should pay off in a lucrative professional football contract after the draft in May. "I came to Nebraska on a football scholarship, and I've put a lot of time and effort into it. If the right offer is there, I'd have to take it," he said. "I'm confident I could make it in the NFL. Linebackers are getting lighter and lighter; they're going more toward speed." Kunz has been clocked in :04.6 for 40 yards, and his technique is excellent.

If the right professional offer doesn't come along, there's still the discus and dreams of the 1980 Olympic Games in Moscow, even though he admits that goal may be more difficult for him to achieve than earning a job in the NFL.

"It would be very difficult to make the 1980 team because among the top 10 college discus throwers in the country, I'm the smallest and by far the weakest," said Kunz, who stands 6-3 and has boosted his weight to 230 pounds.

"Physically, I'm limited to a certain degree of strength. Those other guys all bench press 450 to 500 pounds, and they have a competitive edge because they've specialized all this time," he said. "I'm being totally realistic about it. If I'm not Olympic potential at draft time, I'll go toward professional football. It's very tempting anyway because of the financial aspects."

Last spring, Kunz was the Big Eight discus champion with a 192-8 effort, but for two seasons he's been frustrated by his efforts in the NCAA Track and Field Championships. He'd like to defend his conference crown and then be successful at the NCAA meet. New assistant coach Dick Railsback has really helped his chances of accomplishing those goals, he says.

But even if he isn't successful in national competition, even if he doesn't think he's Olympic potential when the time comes for such an evaluation, Kunz won't be disappointed. The joy is in the striving, not the goal itself.



"For his size, there's not a better athlete in the Big Eight," said Scott Poehling about his roommate, Lee Kunz. Lee began throwing the discus in the eighth grade and values the technical aspects of the sport. "It's almost an art," Kunz says.

"If it happens, fine, but I'll be happy just knowing I've done what I can. I've always had the philosophy that in competition there's no reason to feel bad if you did your best. You just look toward improvement and concentrate on the small, technical factors," he said.

That's how Kunz has been able to be a solid student and still compete in two sports.

"In high school I made the decision I was going to compete in both of them. I

knew I would encounter some difficulties, but when I had the choice, I decided on Nebraska," he said.

Only an athlete in the classic mold, a kind of Renaissance Man, could have handled those pressures, and that's Lee Kunz. "It's been worth it," he said. His response was as simple and unadorned as a sculpture in bronze. They were the words of a perfectionist, the philosophy of an artist. ★



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1979 SPRING SPORTS SCHEDULES

TRACK

MEN

Northeast Louisiana Invitational — 1st
7-87 Arizona State
77-77 Iowa State

April 21 El Paso Invitational at El Paso,
TX
April 27-28 Drake Relays at Des Moines, IA
May 5 Missouri at Columbia, MO
May 18-19 Big 8 Outdoor at Lincoln
May 31-June 2 NCAA Outdoor at Champaign,
IL

WOMEN

Husker Invitational — 2nd
Illinois Invitational — 3rd

April 21 at Northern Colorado Invita-
tional
April 24 State meet at Wayne State
April 27-28 at Drake Relays
May 4-5 Big Eight Championships at
Manhattan, KS
May 23-26 AIAW Nationals at Michigan
State University

Home meets at Ed Weir Track.

GOLF

MEN

Gulfstream Invitational — 2nd
Morris Williams Invitational — 18th

April 25-27 Drake Relays at Des Moines
May 3-4 Big Eight Championships at
Lawrence
May 22-26 NCAA Meet at Wake Forest

WOMEN

Wichita State Invitational — 1st

April 22-23 Big Eight Tournament at Still-
water, OK
May 5-6 Minnesota Invitational at
Minneapolis, MN

BASEBALL

1-9 Cal Poly-Pomona
15-1 Buena Vista
12-8 Buena Vista
9-0 South Dakota
6-0 South Dakota
13-3 Western Missouri
3-1 Western Missouri
9-1 Western Missouri
9-6 Western Missouri
5-1 Western Missouri
10-8 Creighton
15-5 Creighton
9-5 Western Missouri
5-4 Nebraska-Omaha
0-1 Nebraska-Omaha
7-4 Colorado
5-1 Colorado
3-2 Kansas State
1-0 Kansas State
2-7 Oklahoma State
8-6 Oklahoma State

April 20 Iowa State* (1:30)
April 21 Iowa State* (1:00)
April 23 Dana* (2:00)
April 24 Morningside* (2:00)
April 27 at Missouri*
April 28 at Missouri*
May 1 Nebraska-Omaha* (2:00)
May 4 at Kansas*
May 5 at Kansas*
May 16-19 at Big Eight Playoffs-
Oklahoma City
May 25-26 at NCAA Regional Playoffs
June 1-8 College World Series-Omaha

All Home Games At Beltzer Field
(North of Memorial Stadium)

*Two 7-inning Games

Nebraska 7, 13; Central Arizona 3, 5
Nebraska 2, 12; Phoenix College 1, 1
Arizona State 6, 2; Nebraska 3, 1
Nebraska 9, 9; Yavapai College 0, 2
Ohio State 2, Nebraska 1
Nebraska 15, Baylor 3
Oklahoma 6, Nebraska 1
Nebraska 11, Mankato State 3
Nebraska 3, 8; Northwest Missouri 0, 1
Nebraska 1, 6; Northwest Missouri 0, 4
Nebraska 2, 9; Wayne State 1, 3
Nebraska 2, 4; Drake 1, 1

April 13-14 Big Eight Tournament at Ft.
Dodge, IA

TENNIS

MEN

4-5 Cal State-Bakersfield
4-5 Los Angeles-Pierce College
3-6 Air Force
5-4 Iowa State
1-8 Oklahoma State
2-7 Colorado
0-9 Oklahoma State
5-4 Missouri
7-2 Baker

April 21 Washburn, McPherson at
Topeka
April 24 Bethany at Lincoln
April 26-27 Drake Invitational at Des
Moines
May 3 Kansas State at Manhattan
May 16-18 Big Eight Championships at
Oklahoma City

WOMEN

3-6 Oklahoma State
2-7 Oral Roberts
1-8 Oklahoma
8-1 Kansas State
1-8 Drake
9-0 Northwest Missouri State

April 26-28 Missouri Valley Champion-
ships at Columbia, MO
May 4-5 Minnesota Invitational at
Minneapolis, MN
May 18-19 Region 6 Championships at
Columbia, MO
Home matches at Bob Devaney Sports Complex

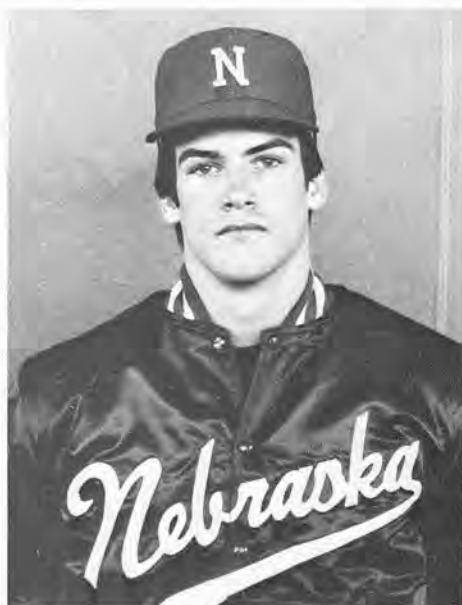
SOFTBALL

April 16 Northwest Missouri, 5:30 p.m.
April 18 Wayne State, 5:30 p.m.
April 19 at Kansas
April 20 at Emporia State
April 21 Kansas State Tournament at
Manhattan, KS
April 23 Kansas State, 2 p.m.
April 24 at UNO
April 25 at Creighton
April 27-28 State Tournament
May 8 Drake, 5:30 p.m.
May 10-13 Region 6 Tourney at
Lawrence, KS
May 24-27 Women's College World Series
at UNO

Home games at Ballard Field, 66th and Kearney

MEN'S SCORECARD

by Ryly Jane Hambleton



Pitcher Tim Burke



Ken Drwal, Javelin

GOLF—Nebraska finished second behind Michigan in the Gulfstream Intercollegiate Tournament in Texas, but fell to 18th in the Morris Williams tourney, also in Texas. Senior Rick Reynolds of Lincoln finished second in the Gulfstream meet with rounds of 73-77-74-70—294. NU's Knox Jones and Steve Statton tied for third place while Bill Henderson tied for sixth.

In the Morris Williams Tourney, Jim Julian was the top finisher for the Huskers, tying for 44th with rounds of 77-78-74—229. Reynolds was 52nd with 77-77-78—232 and Statton was 59th at 78-78-78—234.

SWIMMING—Steve Elliott and Lance Green competed in the District 5 & 6 regional competition at Southern Illinois in the three-meter diving, but neither diver qualified for the national meet. The top six in the region went on to nationals.

TRACK—In NU's opening outdoor track meet, Frank Sevigne's thinclads out-distanced four other teams in the Northeast Louisiana Invitational in Monroe, Louisiana. Winners for the Huskers included Ken Drwal in the javelin, Brian

Dunnigan in the 1500-meter run, Randy Brooks in the 110 high hurdles, Everton DaCosta in the 400 intermediate hurdles and Lee Kunz in the discus.

NU scored 81½ points, followed by: Northwestern State 73, Northeast Louisiana 65, McNeese State 32½ and Southwest Missouri 20.

The Huskers finished second at Tempe, Arizona in a triangular with Arizona State and Iowa State. Individual winners for Nebraska were Drwal in the javelin, Brooks in the 100 high hurdles, and Scott Poehling in the 800-meter run.

TENNIS—The NU tennis team pushed its record to 8-5 in dual play. The Huskers split with two Big Eight opponents, defeating Iowa State and falling to Oklahoma, but then dropping three matches in a California swing.

Dale Christian, a freshman from Norman, Oklahoma, leads the team with a 9-1 singles record while Kerry McDermott, a junior from Grand Island, has an 11-3 mark. The doubles team of Kent Lysgaard (junior from Las Vegas) and Phil Woog (senior, Mission Viejo, CA) sports a 9-4 mark,

while McDermott and Larry Rugg, a junior from Lincoln, have a 7-2 mark.

GYMNASTICS—The Nebraska gymnastics team won the first NCAA title in the school's history with a come-from-behind effort at LSU in Baton Rouge. After falling behind by more than a point after the second round, the Huskers received many individual season-best performances for a 448.275-446.625 win over Oklahoma, two-time defending champion. Indiana State, the other team in the final round, scored 441.300.

Indiana State's Kurt Thomas won the all-around followed by Oklahoma's Bart Conner. Freshman Jim Hartung and senior Larry Gerard finished third and fourth, respectively, for the Huskers. In the individual competition, Hartung gained All-America status in the floor exercise (third place, 19.025), pommel horse (fourth place, 19.200), the rings (third place, 19.100) and parallel bars (fourth place, 18.775). Gerard was All-America in the rings (fourth place, 19.000) and the high bar (fourth place, 19.075). Steve Elliott earned one of the highest scores of the meet with a 9.775 on his vault in the final round. ★

WOMEN'S SCORECARD

by Ryly Jane Hambleton

BASKETBALL—The Nebraska women's basketball team completed its season with a 23-13 record and its first appearance in the Region 6 Championships at the University of Minnesota. The Lady Huskers, who earned the regional berth with a series win over UNO, met Kansas in the first round. The Jayhawks continued their magic over the NU team with an 86-56 win, the third KU victory over Nebraska this season.

Diane DeVigna, a junior forward from Oakland, CA, averaged 18.5 points during the year, while Carol Garey, a sophomore from Sacramento, CA, was second in scoring with a 12.0 average and led the Huskers in rebounding, grabbing 8.9 caroms per game. Mathaline Otis, a junior from Richmond, CA, was second in the rebounding category with a 7.7 average.

Husker coach Lorrie Gallagher, in her first year at NU, now has a career coaching record of 74-18. She will be conducting basketball clinics this summer for high school girls.

GYMNASTICS—The Husker women gymnasts ended the season on a high note, as two of the athletes earned All-America honors at the AIAW national championships at Penn State. Freshman Renee Reisdorff of Omaha finished third in the balance beam finals with a two-round score of 18.35, while junior Patty Carmichael was fifth in the floor exercise finals with 18.30.

Carmichael also earned the right to attend the World University Games trials with her 10th-place finish in the all-around. She registered the highest all-around score for NU this year with a 35.40 performance. The team finished in a tie for 11th with LSU at 131.95.

The Huskers earned an at-large berth in the national competition after scoring 135.75 in a runnerup finish to Southwest Missouri State in the Region 6 tournament at Ames, IA. At the regional meet, senior Peggy Liddick of Lincoln shared the vaulting gold medal with former Olympian Kolleen Casey of SWSMU. Carmichael was second in the uneven bars, third in vaulting and fourth in floor exercise and Reisdorff finished fifth in the balance beam. Carmichael was second in the all-around while Reisdorff was fourth and Liddick finished fifth.



Pitcher Candy Hoffman



Carol Garey

SWIMMING—Coach Ray Huppert took just three women to the national meet this year at the University of Pittsburgh, but the three had qualified for more individual events than Nebraska ever has. Sophomore JoDea Eckstrom of Marshall, MN, set three school records at the AIAW national meet. A time of 4:00.72 placed her 25th in the 100 individual medley, while a 1:00.13 clocking gave her a 28th-place finish in the 100 backstroke. She finished 38th in the 50 backstroke with a time of :28.43. Junior Cary Backhaus of Omaha finished 30th in the 50 freestyle with a school record of :24.73.

SOFTBALL—The Nebraska women's softball team opened the season with a two-week trip south, and returned with a 13-10 record. The regular season began at the Sooner Invitational but rain kept the team idle for the first two days. NU dropped its first three but responded with three victories before entering pool play of the tournament.

NU advanced to the single elimination tournament for the first time, gaining second place in its pool. After a loss to Oklahoma, the Huskers traveled to Arizona. Nebraska went 8-5, including a double-header win over junior college power Yavapai. In the first game, freshman Candy Hoffman of Lincoln hurled a no-hitter to keep her record spotless at 3-0.

After a win over Mankato, NU placed third in the Invitational with three wins in five outings. The Huskers defeated South Dakota, Iowa and Northern Iowa before dropping a pair to Iowa State and Emporia.



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